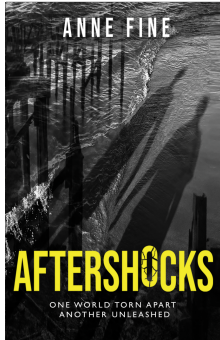




AFTERSHOCKS

February 2022



'the book of my heart' – Anne Fine

An absorbing, atmospheric story of hope and grief from former Children's Laureate Anne Fine

AFTERSHOCKS is a modern fable – part ghost-story, part coming-of-age novel and part astute social and family observation – which explores the ways in which grief can affect not only individuals, but communities at large.

A family mix-up means Louie has to tag along with his engineer father and his team as they head for a routine job in the farthest flung and most neglected province of the Federation. A massive earthquake, with ensuing tsunami, devastates the entire isolated coastal region, laying bare the other-worldly manner in which the silent and strange Endlanders deal with life, death and the hinterlands of memory and loss. Their curious and unsettling ways raise ghosts for Louie, who has recently lost his own brother.

'[Aftershocks is] a very other-worldly novel that explores ideas of loss and grief both on a macroscopic and microscopic level and the kinds of collateral damage that can arise from this within families. ... how well Anne realises the emotional capacity of boys and how timely that feels amidst discussions on toxic masculinity.'

- Jake Hope, Carnegie Kate Greenaway Steering Group Chair and reading consultant

Anne Fine has been asked countless times to tackle the topic of grief and loss in a book for this age group. *Aftershocks* explores the different ways in which people deal with grief and attempts to give both children and adults reassurance and understanding that many different ways of dealing with it are common, but that everyone has to come to terms with it at some point somehow ... Grief doesn't usually just affect one person, but a whole family and the wider community.

It is important to point out that while children are the primary audience for *Aftershocks* it is not written 'down' to young people - Anne Fine herself refuses to age-range her books - it is simply for whoever needs and wants to read that story at that time. A book for all ages with universal themes. In Anne's own words *'though the author's job is essentially simply to provide 'a good read', most of us find that over and above that we're also trying to interpret*

this world to our readers - to unravel and illuminate their situations, or those of others around them, and, with luck, offer something in the nature of a hope to cling to, a line to take, even a way to go.'

Praise for *Aftershocks*:

The hauntingly peculiar is rooted in everyday reality, and Fine observes both normality and the unusual with equal precision. This is a book with the potential to heal – Nicolette Jones,
The Sunday Times, Children's Book of the Week

A weird and wonderful triumph... A challenging, powerful book – this is Fine at her very best.
Alex O'Connell, The Times Children's Book of the Week

This is an absolutely masterful tale... A beautiful, important book looking at the aftershocks of grief – and eventually how we might pick up the pieces. Booktrust

It's refreshing to read a high-quality book for teenagers that portrays grief in all its rawness... Fine, in evocative, moving prose, shows us that when it comes to mourning, ancient rituals are not to be dismissed lightly. Readers will look over their shoulders as they read and yet finish this book deeply satisfied. Philip Womack, The Literary Review

a startlingly original concept... This author always takes great care to leave a reader with hope and generally, most definitely so in this case, with a deeper understanding of the human condition. A brilliantly rewarding read. Joy Court, LoveReading4Kids

About the Author

Former Children's Laureate Anne Fine has written over seventy books for children. She has won the Carnegie Medal twice and been highly commended three times. She has won the Guardian Prize, the Smarties Prize, and the Whitbread Award twice. Anne Fine's work has been translated into forty-five languages. In 2003 she became a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature and was awarded an OBE. Anne has two grown up daughters, and lives in County Durham, UK.

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NOTES FOR EDITORS

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